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S E C R E T COLOMBO 000876

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR DS/IP/SA, DS/DSS/ITA AND SA/INS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 1.6 X1, X6

TAGS: [ASEC](#) [AEMR](#) [PTER](#) [CASC](#) [CE](#)

SUBJECT: COLOMBO EAC MEETING May 23, 2003

REF: State 137077

(U) Classified by S.V. Wright, Regional Security Officer, reason 1.5(C) and (D).

1. (SBU) On May 23, 2003 Colombo Emergency Action Committee (EAC) met to discuss our local security situation following the recent bombings in Saudi Arabia and Casablanca, and as recommended in reftel. The DCM chaired the EAC.
2. (SBU) The EAC agreed that Colombo continues to be calm. Most local attention is focused on the LTTE's pulling away from the peace negotiations, and rescue efforts following last week's cyclone and flooding. Events in Saudi Arabia and Casablanca have received little local attention. All committee members advised that none of their staff had expressed any increased security concern.
3. (C) AID Director advised that her discussions with contractors and others suggested that Sri Lankan Muslims continued to be disorganized politically, and that she did not see any immediate threat to the US from them. The EAC was of the opinion that other than a lone unstable attacker, there was little threat from local Muslims generally. Although the Muslim/LTTE situation in the east continued to be unstable and dangerous in the local context, the committee agreed that at the moment, a Muslim threat to US interests in Sri Lanka would have to come from outside Sri Lanka.
4. (S) RSO advised that all security assets remain at high alert, and commented that we continue to have solid police and police Special Task Force contacts in the east. None have reported any increased aggressive activity from that part of the country. Additionally, the Director of Internal Intelligence (DII) had advised RSO as recently as May 19, that the DII had no US-related threat information. DATT also reported that he had received no new threat information from the Directorate of Military Intelligence (DMI). Both DATT and RSO agreed to question all sources again. Political section also agreed that they had not picked-up any indication of increased risk to US interests, either locally or from contacts in the north and east.
5. (U) IBB Station Manager reported civil disturbances in Puttalam, near the transmitter station. Inter-communal rioting broke-out following the murder of a Muslim girl by her uncle after she married a Sinhalese man. Local police responded quickly with overwhelming presence and a local curfew, and the situation has cooled somewhat.
6. (U) The EAC reconsidered our previous in-country travel restrictions to Puttalam, the north and the east, and agreed that our tight restrictions should remain in effect for now.
7. (U) The EAC will reconvene as events dictate or if relevant information is received from sources.

Wills